**Be a Google Search Expert in 12 Steps!**

**Many of these tips will work for database searches too!**

1. What are some search terms you might use if you are searching for information on Iranian culture?

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| **Possible Searches:** |
| a. |
| b. |
| c. |

1. Based on the PPT, which search term(s) would be the most efficient and effective: a, b, or c? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Now, brainstorm possible search terms for a topic you might use for your paper/project:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Search terms: | Sample results / number of results / kinds of results /etc. | Was this an effective search? Why or why not? |
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1. How do you ensure that your search results include only words in an exact phrase? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Try searching a term for your possible topic regularly and then as an exact phrase. What are the results?

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1. Try a search term minus another search term: ***salsa*** vs. ***salsa –dance*.** What is the difference in results? What does the **–** symbol mean right before a word?

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1. Try a search with two nouns as search terms (for example, *swimmer backstroke*)*.* Remember that Google automatically puts a **+** (and) between words. Now search the same two words again, but, this time, separate them with ***OR***. Which search yields the most results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Find results about the topic you used in #3, but limit your results to the ***.edu*** domain.

What do you type into the Google search box? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What are your results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Find out who links to one of the sites you found in #7 by doing a link search: ***link:pasteURL***.

What are your results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Find a PDF file about your topic.

What do you type into the Google search box? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What are your results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Choose one term and search without a tilde (**~**) and with a **~** (for example, ***car engine*** vs. ***~car engine***).

What is the difference in results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does the ***~*** symbol mean? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Click on ***Advanced search*** (located at the bottom of a results page after you have done a search). Search for your topic, and click on the “show options” button to the right. Explore the options and try a few advanced searches using your topic.

How does each search create different results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Try the ***inurl*** and ***intitle*** searches. Are they effective for your topic? Why or why not?  
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**Guided Practice: Complete the following searches and record the number of results for each search phrase.**

Assume you are searching ***depression***to write a paper about the most debilitating symptoms of seasonal depression.

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| **Search Phrase:** | **Number of Results:** | **How did the term narrow / change the results?** |
| depression |  |  |
| depression -great |  |  |
| depression –great seasonal |  |  |
| depression –great seasonal FAQ |  |  |
| depression –great seasonal FAQ site:gov |  |  |
| depression –great seasonal FAQ site:gov symptoms |  |  |

Assume you are searching the Great Depression to write a paper about the impact of black blizzards.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Search Phrase** | Number of Results | How did the term narrow / change the results? |
| the great depression |  |  |
| “the great depression” |  |  |
| “the great depression” site: edu |  |  |
| “the great depression” site:edu “black blizzards” |  |  |
| “the great depression” site:gov |  |  |
| “the great depression” site:gov “black blizzards” |  |  |

**Independent Practice: Now, you try. Search for answers to the following two questions. For each, begin with a broad search and use advanced search techniques to narrow your results and to find results from reputable sources. Create a chart that tracks your search terms and your number of results.**

1. Can you explain how the author has used the raven as a symbol in Edgar Allan Poe’s poem “The Raven” ? Create a chart with at least 5 search phrases, the number of results for each, and an explanation of how the term(s) narrowed/changed the results

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Search Phrase** | Number of Results | How did the term narrow / change the results? |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Answer (with citation from a reputable source): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. How was Edgar Allan Poe related to Virginia Clem, and what is the lowest number of results you are able to get when doing a search about their relationship? Create a chart like the one above to document your search.

Answer (with citation from a reputable source): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Guided Practice and Independent Practice taken and adapted from Katrine Watkins, 2006** [**http://static.googleusercontent.com/external\_content/untrusted\_dlcp/www.google.com/en/us/educators/activities/Search\_GoogleGame\_kwatkins.pdf**](http://static.googleusercontent.com/external_content/untrusted_dlcp/www.google.com/en/us/educators/activities/Search_GoogleGame_kwatkins.pdf)